

REMARKS

In the Specification, the paragraph at page 3, line 17, has been amended to indicate that the cross section lines 11-11 have been placed in Fig. 12 rather than Fig. 10.

In Amended Fig. 12, the cross section lines 11-11 have been added.

In Amended Fig. 14, the cross section taken on lines 14-14 of Fig. 13 has been correctly depicted.

Claims 1-21 are pending in this Application. Claims 3 and 6-21 have been withdrawn from further consideration.

In view of the Examiner's earlier restriction requirement, Applicant retains the right to present Claims 3 and 6-21 in a divisional application.

Claims 1, 3, and 5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Huang (5,355,552) in view of Squadroni and Official Notice. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Huang discloses an air cushioned grip with a cubic structure. Huang's entire disclosure is limited to a series of cells which are either independent or communicate with one another, column 3, lines 37-41. In Huang, Figs. 22-26 have a grip, an internal air bladder 207, which is not shown anywhere in Figs. 22-26, which incorporates the cubic supporting structure previously shown, column 6, lines 28-32. Applicant's device has no cells and no air bladder. Applicant utilizes a grip 18, which is tubular in shape and slips over the central shaft 12. It is attached to the central shaft only at the top 14 and bottom 16, page 4, lines 1-6 of the Specification. Grip 18 is made of an air-tight material that is placed over central shaft 12, page 4, lines 19-21 of the Specification.

When the cells of Huang do not communicate with one another, they are independent and have a certain inner pressure. Obviously, this pressure is not

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawing includes changes to Figs. 10, 12 and 14, pursuant to the comments of the Examiner. These two sheets replace the original sheets including Figs. 10, 12 and 14. The cross section lines have been corrected in Figs. 10 and 12 and Fig. 14 shows the correct cross section view of lines 14-14 of Fig. 13.

adjustable. When the cells 12 of Huang are made to communicate with one another, it requires a complex set of passage tubes 121. Column 3, lines 37-43. Applicant has no such complicated system. In Applicant's device, the grip itself is air tight, sealed to the handle only at the top and bottom, air is introduced between the grip and the handle and fills the entire space under the grip and is thus highly adjustable, depending upon the amount of air inserted between the grip and the handle. Huang's grip, on the other hand, which has a series of cells, has a certain amount of space between each cell, as shown in all of the drawings of the cells in the Huang patent. These spaces form grooves or ruts between the cells, which can be felt by the hand gripping the handle of the racket or other device. Thus, Huang's grip is uncomfortable, since it does not have a smooth surface feel, to the grip itself. Applicant's grip has no such grooves or ruts which can be felt by the user of the device.

Squadroni discloses a handle for an object such as a racket which includes a hollow element having a wall with a plurality of openings in the wall. The openings in the wall constitute the novel part of Squadroni's device. An air tube inside the hollow element is inflatable so that portions of the air tube protrude through the openings, forming a plurality of pads capable of being deformed. This is an entirely different system from that of Applicant. The Examiner states that Squadroni discloses a grip with a portion of it being an inflated elastic (Claim 3) tube. The inflated elastic tube, however, is inside of the grip and small portions of the inflated tube protrude through holes in the grip itself. This is far different from Applicant's grip, which is on the outside of the handle, not the inside. Examiner states that in view of Squadroni, it would have been obvious to modify the implement of Huang to

have a grip being tubular and being a solid piece of material placed over a handle. This is not the case, since Squadroni does not place an elastic tube over a handle but rather inside of a handle with only small portions protruding through holes. Other than being on a handle or implement, the device of Squadroni has no relevance to the cell device of Huang.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 4 as being unpatentable over Huang in view of Squadroni as applied to Claims 1, 3, and 5 above, and further in view of Official Notice. The Examiner makes Official Notice that a well-known inflatable material is rubber. While rubber may be an inflatable material, the grip of Huang is comprised of an outer enveloping layer B, which is bound on the air cushion grip or a layer of double-sided, glued tape is first wound around the grip and then the air cushion grip and then the outer enveloping layer B are bound on thereto, column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 6. Again at column 5, line 61-64, Huang discloses an outer enveloping layer B, which is wound partially or wholly, covering the air cushion grip, or a foam directly enveloped around the air cushion grip. Thus, the grip of Huang is not a simple one-piece material, but involves layers of material, unlike Applicant, who has a single piece of air-tight material which fits as a tube over the handle of the implement.

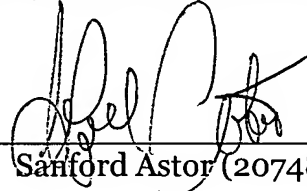
In view of the Amendments to Claim 1 in which Applicant's grip is described as a grip comprising a tubular, solid, single piece of material, which is placed over the handle and sealed to the handle only at the top and the bottom of the grip, the claims now define an inventive improvement over the devices of the references.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Sanford Astor (Reg. No. 20748) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By  _____
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